

## THE MYTH OF FACTORY FARMS

### WHAT are "factory farms"?

**They don't exist.**

The term "factory farm" is not used by farmers. It's an expression used by people who think we should go back to smaller farms or by those who believe that people should not benefit from animals in any way.

On farms, animals are cared for by people. In contrast, factories generally produce goods by machine.

Farms come in all shapes and sizes, and they are farms, not factories.<sup>1</sup>

### WHAT about farms that raise hundreds or thousands of animals?

These farms are referred to as **intensive livestock operations**.

Intensive livestock operations focus on raising, feeding and/or breeding a large number of animals in a defined space. Chickens, pigs and beef cattle are examples of animals that may be raised this way.

Although intensive livestock operations raise animals in a generally more concentrated space, farmers know that overcrowding is not good for their animals' well-being. Farmers work with experts who know how to ensure that animals have room to move around freely, eat and drink, socialize with other animals and lie down.



Cleaning stalls



Farmers care about their animals and do their best to keep livestock safe, comfortable and healthy. They believe that animal abuse is wrong, and that abusers should be held accountable for their actions.



Animal welfare is the humane treatment of animals. It is the responsibility of all farmers to take into consideration all aspects of animals' well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, and humane handling.



**Biosecurity** includes the procedures farmers follow to keep animals healthy and prevent the spread of disease. Examples include limiting visitors to barns, separating out sick animals and working closely with a veterinarian.



Farmers have codes of practice for animals care<sup>2</sup> and must also follow laws related to humane treatment of animals<sup>5</sup> when they work with beef cattle, chickens, pigs, etc.



## ANTIBIOTIC AND HORMONE USE

Antibiotics are used for a specific purpose – to treat disease and prevent animal suffering. Similarly, people take antibiotics to treat such ailments as an infected finger cut or an ear infection.

Farmers also give their animals hormones only when they see a benefit for doing so. Growth hormones are legal for **ONLY** beef cattle in Canada<sup>3</sup>, and are given in small amounts to help beef cattle convert fat to muscle and to produce the lean meat that consumers want.





# THE MYTH OF FACTORY FARMS



## ARE CATTLE FORCE FED IN INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS?

**No!**

Feeding an animal too much can result in health problems and wasted feed.

In order to produce high quality meat, animals are provided with diets that result in nutritious food for consumers.



## SHOULD WE RETURN TO SMALLER FARMS?

Smaller farms, although they can be productive, feed fewer people. In order to produce enough food for a growing world population, more people would need to become farmers. However, not many people want to farm or have the ability to do so. As a result, there are fewer farmers and larger farms.



## THE TRUTH ABOUT "CORPORATE FARMS"

Many farms are incorporated for business reasons in order to allow family members to participate in the farm business. These corporations are different from multinational corporations and businesses.

OVER **97%** OF FARMS IN CANADA ARE **FAMILY OWNED**<sup>4</sup> AND MAY ALSO BE INCORPORATED.



Cattle eating from feedlot bunk

## WHETHER BIG OR SMALL, FARMERS CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Farmers depend on the land. They know that without good soil, healthy water and clean air, they could not produce safe, healthy and nutritious food. They also want to ensure a productive future for their children and grandchildren.

**And, after all, they eat the same food as you do!**



Broiler chickens are raised for meat in free-run barns.